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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An image correction device for use in an image forming system which is connectable to a plurality of image readers and image forming apparatuses, the image correction device is capable of suppressing distortion in the image forming system by using optimum image correction information corresponding to mechanical differences and changes over time in the plurality of image readers and image forming apparatuses, the image correction device includes a discriminating device for discriminating the image readers from the image forming apparatuses which are connected to the image correction device, memory means for storing correction data relating to combinations of the image readers and image forming apparatuses and data correction means for correcting image data output from an image reader using the correction data relating to a specific combination of image reader and image forming apparatus and for outputting the corrected data to an image forming apparatus. The connectability of the plurality of image readers and image forming apparatuses includes a connection of the plurality of image forming apparatuses to a single image reader, and a connection of the plurality of image readers to a single image forming apparatus. The correction data include various combinations of gradient correction data, resolution data, density correction data and color correction data for color printing, and various combinations of halftone correction data, resolution data and density correction data for monochrome printing. The data correction means corrects the image data from the image reader based on updated correction data stored in the memory means, and outputs the corrected data to the image forming apparatus. The image correction device further comprises means for requesting regeneration of the correction data to update the correction data stored in the memory means when a set time interval has elapsed after the last update of the correction data. The correction data relating to a first combination of image reader and image forming apparatus having the most similar characteristics to a second combination of image reader and image forming apparatus that does not have correction data stored in the memory means are used for correcting the image data. The image correction device further comprises means for searching

for correction data relating to a first combination of image reader and image forming apparatuses having the most similar characteristics to a second combination of image reader and image forming apparatus that does not have correction data stored in the memory means.

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